

Remarks

The Examiner's careful attention to the claims, and withholding a final rejection, are acknowledged with Applicants' thanks. The indicated allowability of claims 16-20 also is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-14, and 16-21 are pending. Please cancel claim 10. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. New claim 21 is added.

Claims 1-7, 9, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Pakula. The rejections are overcome by amendment.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the "first adjustable means for connecting said secondary packing gland flange to said primary packing gland flange" comprises "at least one secondary packing bolt," while the "second adjustable means for connecting said primary packing gland flange to said valve assembly" comprises "at least one primary packing bolt separate from said secondary packing bolt." As the Examiner has implicitly acknowledged in the immediately previous Office Action, Pakula does not have two "adjustable means for connecting" that feature two *separate* packing bolts as claimed.

The use of separate packing bolts (primary and secondary) is advantageous over the Pakula device. Referring to Pakula Fig. 5A, it is seen, for example, that the secondary packing gland flange (75) cannot be adjusted downward (by upper pair of nuts 81) to further compress the secondary packing 71 without also further compressing the primary packing 70 (as primary packing gland flange 54 shifts down away from the lower washer 92). Similarly, adjusting the position of Pakula's secondary flange 75 upward in Fig. 5A may decompress not only the secondary packing 71, but may release pressure on the primary packing as well. Thus, while the two "adjustable means for connecting" identified in Paragraph 4 of the Office Action may be "adjustable independently of each other," as required by claim 1, the use of separate packing bolts as now called for in the claim permits independent compression of the two packings.

Because Pakula uses the same bolt 80 as *both* his primary packing bolt and his secondary packing bolt, claim 1 as amended is distinguishable from his device. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, and likewise are allowable over Pakula.

Independent claim 7 also was rejected as being anticipated by Pakula. Claim 7 is amended to incorporate therein the limitations of claim 10. In Paragraph 8 of the recent Office Action, the Examiner indicated the allowability of the subject matter of claim 10, provided it was rewritten independent form including the limitations of its base claim (claim 7) and its intervening claim (claim 9). Applicant submits that the subject matter of intervening claim 9 is not critical to the patentability of the subject matter of claim 10. Claim 7, including the limitations of claim 10 imported therein, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 11-14 depend from claim 7 as amended, and are also allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pakula in view of Covert '682. This rejection is traversed in light of the amendments made to claims 1 and 7 as explained above. Covert '682 does not supply the subject matter added to claims 1 and 7 by amendment, yet absent from the disclosure of Pakula. Covert does not show a at least one primary packing bolt and at least one secondary packing bolt that is separate from the primary packing bolt. Claims 1-6 thus are allowable over Pakula in view of Covert '682. Neither does Covert supply any teaching of separate adjustable means for connecting that are "are angularly offset from each other in relation to said stem" as now required by claim 7. Claims 7, 9, and 11-14 thus are allowable over Pakula in view of Covert et al. '682. New claim 21 is added to claim additional subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 21 is similar to allowed claim 16 in many respects, except that a number of limitations unnecessary to the patentability of claim 16 do not appear in new claim 21. Further, claim 21 emphasizes that the primary and secondary packings are *separately* compressible, i.e.: the "secondary packing material is compressible within said second packing chamber by adjustment of said first means for connecting to move said secondary packing gland flange", while the "primary packing material is compressible, *separately from said secondary packing material*, within the primary packing chamber by adjustment of said second means for connecting" (Emphasis added.)

As explained above, any movement of Pakula's secondary packing flange **75/6** one way or the other, besides affecting the compression of the secondary packing **71**, necessarily will

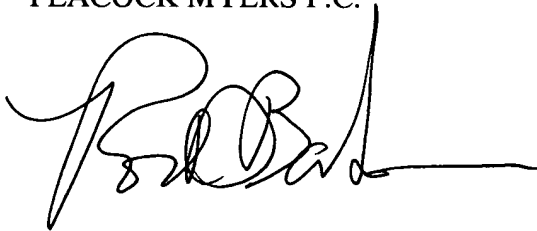
have some affect also on the primary packing **70**. This is due to the use of a single bolt **80**, and that a rigid component (unlabelled in Pakula Fig. 5A) is in intermediate contact with both packing flanges **75/6** and **54**, and necessarily transmits (or relieves forces) between those flanges. Claim 21 accordingly is believed to be allowable over the art of record. Examination and allowance of the new claim, in light of the foregoing remarks, is respectfully solicited.

The application as amended contains four independent claims (but less than twenty total claims), so an additional claims fee is due. A check for said fee is included herewith.

Entries of the proposed amendments, and reconsideration and allowance of all the claims as amended, are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any suggestions regarding this application, he is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

PEACOCK MYERS P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod D. Baker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

By:

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